

January Newsletter

North Woodham
Primary School



Welcome back! It is great to see that the cold snap is starting to wipe out the 100-day cough for the majority and so things are back into full steam ahead. It would also seem that the same can be said for the sugar-beet harvest with the constant truck traffic adding to the dangers of pick up/drop off for at least another week. Please could we ask parents to take note that the SAM2 camera has been repositioned on Priory Lane. Whilst this is hopefully reducing the speed of the trucks, could we also ask our families to use this to take note of their own speed as we know how many children are around the school entrances before and after school.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Out of everything we teach, this is often the most contentious. Inevitably, the inclusion of the word 'sex' around young children is emotive and not something we generally would raise in our conversations about 'how was school today?'. Moreover, we have a curriculum that needs to layer age-appropriate content over a number of years and therefore, there can of course be a misconception that we are going to jump straight into the nitty-gritty, which of course we do not.

The difficulty of course, is that every one of us will have a different view about what needs to be taught, when, with an inevitable feeling that somethings are taught too early. The complexity for each school therefore, is the requirement for our RSHE curriculum to be comprehensive, whilst also reflecting the feelings of the community in which we teach.

This is achieved through awareness sessions and consultations. Our current curriculum has been in place for around three years with the majority of this based on the recommended scheme for Norfolk. As a teaching staff (as they have to feel comfortable teaching this) we adapted this heavily, removing some content and adding some in. This has then received feedback from parental awareness sessions over the last three years and we survey the Year 5/6 pupils each year to ensure that our teaching is keeping pace with what they are learning from Youtube, social media and online gaming. Certainly with our eldest children, we think it is important to try to ensure that we lead educated discussions about these sensitive topics, rather than leaving it to a Youtuber or peer on the playground.

Therefore, whilst we feel that this curriculum has had plenty of opportunities to reflect our community, we are aware that not everybody can attend parent awareness sessions and just having the topics on paper, does not give you enough of an understanding of what we are discussing. So we are going to try a different type of consultation this year: I have asked each section of the school to make a short 10 minute video about what they will cover. I have asked them to focus on the more sensitive parts to ensure we are clear on what we teach. You will receive the links to these by email in the next few weeks. We will then hold our annual parent awareness session on Monday 18th March for any parent that wants to feedback, question or discuss this more.

Pastoral Education – Whilst the purpose of education is mainly seen as to develop academic ability, today, safeguarding the current and future mental health and wellbeing of our pupils has to be a cornerstone of any school's approach. Within the school, Miss Buschman is the senior leader in charge of managing the structures that we have to support this including the PHSE curriculum, our Emotional Literacy Support interventions and working with the Mental Health in Schools Support Team. The aim of this work is to provide a tiered-level of support that matches the needs of different groups of children, when they may need this.

Currently, a key focus of Miss Buschman, together with Miss Broughton, is to raise awareness around Young Carers—*someone aged 25 and under who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction.* Our aim is to think more about which of our children may need a little more support or understanding in school, because their household may have to prioritise things differently to their friends. We are beginning to highlight this with the children as well as setting up and signposting support for these pupils. If you feel your child is a Young Carer, please feel free to let us know as this will help us structure school differently for them when needed. We will be sending out more information about Young Carers ahead of Young Carers Action Day on Wednesday 13th March 2024 organised by the Carers Trust.

Parent Teacher Association – The autumn term has been hugely successful for our 24 members of the PTA and the support of the community.

In terms of fundraising, almost £3000 has been added to their balance over four events held this year. The Christmas Fair was the largest followed by the Christmas disco, Christmas cards and pre-loved uniform sales.

As well as covering the costs of these events, so far this academic year, the PTA have spent around £1000 of this on providing book bags for our new Reception pupils and paying for the pupil's Christmas parties and presents. They have also agreed to fund a further £4000 worth of projects within the school over the next few months: adding a quiet space to the junior playground, which was something proposed by our Pupil Parliament; purchasing more powerful speakers to support our live performances such as Nativity and the summer fair and paying for a large refit to some of the existing trim trails. Therefore, the money raised directly benefits all of the children within the school and we could not offer the school experience that we do, without this.

JANUARY			
30th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Juniper Class - Additional PE session
FEBRUARY			
6th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Elder class - Additional PE session
8th	Thursday	16:00 - 17:00	Y5/6 Girls Football Team - Lynnsport
12th	Monday	10:00 - 11:45	Tag Rugby Festival - Selected children
13th	Tuesday		Dental Survey - Selected EYFS/Y1 children
13th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Oak class - Additional PE session
13th	Tuesday	15:30 - 18:30	Parent Teacher Meetings
15th	Thursday	16:00 - 19:00	Parent Teacher Meetings
16th	Friday		Love West Norfolk Heritage Day - Non Uniform
19th - 23rd	Monday - Friday		Half Term
26th	Monday		Children return to school
27th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Willow class - Additional PE session
MARCH			
1st	Friday		National offer day for Secondary School places September 2024
4th	Monday	10:00 - 14:00	Y5/6 Quicksticks Hockey - Selected children
5th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Maple class - Additional PE session
5th	Tuesday	15:30 - 16:15	MTC Parent awareness session - Year 4 parents
7th	Thursday		World Book Day - Non-Uniform
11th	Monday	12:15 - 13:15	KS2 Girls Lunchtime Football
12th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Rowan class - Additional PE session
14th	Thursday	16:00 - 17:00	Y5/6 Girls Football Team - Lynnsport
15th	Friday		Red Nose Day - Non-Uniform
18th	Monday	18:30 - 19:30	Sex Education Parent Awareness Session
18th	Monday		Y5/6 Dance Rehearsal
19th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Acorns class - Additional PE session
19th	Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00	KS2 Homework Project Morning
19th	Tuesday	18:00 - 20:30	Schools Make Music at the Corn Exchange - School band
21st	Thursday	KS2 - 9:15 EYFS/KS1 - 13:15	PTA Easter Egg Hunt
22nd	Friday		PTA Easter Raffle Assembly
22nd	Friday	9:00 - 12:00	Class Group Photos
25th	Monday		Y3/4 Dance Rehearsal
26th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Conkers class - Additional PE session
26th	Tuesday		Y1/2 Dance Rehearsal
27th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:30	Reception Dance Rehearsal
27th	Wednesday		Whole school dance performance
27th	Wednesday		Last swimming lesson for Year 5 children
27th	Wednesday		Last day of term